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DISCOVERING
THE NEW
WORLD(S)
— AND THEY
MAY HOLD LIFE
metroNEWS

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2017

High 5°C/Low 2°C Mostly cloudy



Stephen McNeil, left, and Minister Tony Ince with a member of the Maritime Bhangra Group during a Cultural Plan announcement at Pier 21 in Halifax on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

The province's new culture plan had the premier
DANCING WITH DIVERSITY
but it has little substance to it
metroNEWS

Extracurriculars up to the teachers

EDUCATION

**Minister says
they decide
whether they
participate**

It will be up to Nova Scotia teachers to decide whether they participate in extracurricular

activities as they adjust to a contract imposed on them through legislation, Education Minister Karen Casey said Wednesday.

Casey said the province's 9,300 public school teachers are in a transition period now that their work-to-rule job action was halted by a contract imposed Tuesday by the Liberal government, which ended a 16-month contract dispute.

Casey said she thinks many teachers want to get back to helping with extracurricular activities, but it will be up to them to decide whether to volunteer their time for activities that are not part of the contract.

"What I'm hearing from high school students is that (extracurricular activities) are very much a part of the character and the spirit of the school.

They miss those things and I'm sure that students are encouraging their teachers to continue that," said Casey following a cabinet meeting.

"But it is a teacher's decision and we'll have to wait to see how many continue doing that." The union did not return a request for comment Wednesday.

The Liberals used their majority to ram through Bill 75,

which sparked rowdy protests outside of Province House by teachers who said it infringed on their constitutional right to negotiate a collective agreement.

Teachers held a one-day strike last Friday in protest of the legislation, saying it doesn't provide the help they need in the classroom. It was the first time in the Nova Scotia Teach-

ers' Union's 122-year history that members had walked off the job.

The union issued a news release Wednesday denouncing the government's decision to put the \$3.4 million saved on strike day toward one-time grants for extracurricular activities that fall outside of the instructional day.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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PUBLIC SERVICES

Snow clearing scaled back more than week after blizzard



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

Streets and sidewalks in Halifax are finally getting back to normal.

Spokesperson Tiffany Chase said Wednesday that the municipality is starting to scale back snow-clearing operations, which have been running 24/7 since last Sunday — though crews will still be out removing snow and widening downtown streets overnight.

The usual service standards for streets and sidewalks were thrown out the window after last week's blizzard was deemed an "exceptional weather event," but the municipality estimated last Wednesday that sidewalks on main roads and bus routes would be cleared in 10 to 12 days.

"We made that estimate to manage expectations when we first looked at the conditions following the first event that delivered the 50 to 55 centimetre snow fall," she said.



BY THE NUMBERS

\$22.5M

The total HRM snow clearing budget.

\$11.4M

Amount spent on snow clearing by Jan. 31.

A snowplow gets to work in Upper Tantallon during a snowstorm last week. The city is still pushing snow back from two major snowstorms. JEFF HARPER/METRO

"We had every piece of available equipment and crew out there to tackle the sidewalks."

Chase said the sidewalks on main roads and bus routes were done by Tuesday, and all residential sidewalks in the municipality would be cleared by Thursday night. All 2,500 bus stops are clear as well.

But clearing and removing the 80 centimetres of snow that fell

last week has meant taking on some extra costs.

The municipality had to bring in extra snow blowers for streets (it only has one), dump trucks to haul snow away, blower attachments for sidewalk equipment, and front-end loaders and backhoes.

"This event would have incurred additional expenditures in terms of additional equipment

and the overtime costs that we will have incurred from going on a 24/7 operation for the past 10 or 11 days," Chase said.

That doesn't mean the municipality is over budget just yet, though. They'll look for available surpluses in other departments within transportation and public works, or other municipal business units. There's also a reserve account for

winter operations.

The total budget for snow clearing this year was \$22.5 million. Chase said there's a delay in reporting the numbers, but as of Jan. 31, the municipality had spent about \$11.4 million.

"We'll see where we are when we get closer to the end of the fiscal year, but we are monitoring the costs of this particular event," Chase said.



We had every piece of available equipment and crew out there.

Tiffany Chase

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CULTURAL EDUCATION

Embracing diversity helps students: Report



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

If students are asked to write about a park, they all might not describe green grass, a pond or room for a BBQ.

Having teachers understand the cultural backgrounds of their students, while unpacking their own bias, misconceptions and expectations, are all part of Culturally Relevant Pedagogy (CRP) that the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) has been rolling out over the past three years aimed at closing the achievement gap for African Nova Scotian and Indigenous students.

Marlene Ruck-Simmonds, Senior Diversity Advisor for HRSB, updated the board Wednesday night on what's been happening since facilitators began professional development on the subject for administrators, teachers,

and support staff in 2014.

"We're trying to right our system. Like a ship that we're trying to turn around in the middle of a big ocean. Doing so takes a lot of tenacity," said Ruck-Simmonds told the board.

For a basic definition, Ruck-Simmonds said pedagogy is how and why people teach the way they do, including their behaviours, and belief systems.

All CRP starts with teachers and staff getting to know individual students and how their culture is an asset, Ruck-Simmonds said.

Superintendent Elwin LeRoux said the key is how facilitators come from a positive place and show how including students' culture can bring strength.

If a teacher asks students to write about a park, and they're grading on "green trees," that might not be every student's lived experience, LeRoux said.

"You've missed what I bring to my learning, and you've actually framed something that might exclude me," he said from the student's perspective.

Ruck-Simmonds said she's encouraged by how many teachers are stepping up to adapt their thinking and practice.

+ NEXT STEPS

To date, 29 of 34 identified schools have received CRP, with plans to bring it to all.

COMMITTEE

Dartmouth School review extended

The school review looking at Auburn Drive and Cole Harbour High families will take a few more weeks than initially planned.

The School Options Committee (SOC), a volunteer-led group reviewing the 17 schools in these families, recently requested an extension of up to 90 days to complete their review.

The Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) grant-

ed the extension on Feb. 8.

In light of the extension, the third public meeting of the review, scheduled for Thursday evening, has been postponed.

The new date for the third meeting has not been finalized, but it's expected to be confirmed within the next week and released to the public with at least two weeks' notice.

HALEY RYAN/METRO



Christopher Calvin Garnier, charged with second-degree murder in the death of Const. Catherine Campbell, violated the conditions of his bail according to Halifax police and now is in jail pending a hearing next month. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Garnier locked up for at least a week

COURT

Bail revocation hearing set for March 3



Jordan Omstead
For Metro | Halifax

Christopher Calvin Garnier will remain behind bars for at least another week.

Garnier appeared in Nova Scotia Supreme Court in Halifax briefly on Wednesday morning related to three counts of breaching his bail conditions.

Justice Michael Wood remanded him back to the Burnside jail until next Friday when a bail revocation hearing is set

to take place.

In the same grey sweater and blue shirt as when he was arraigned on Tuesday, the Halifax man managed a smile as he watched his family take their seats.

Before the hearing began, Garnier and his father, Vince, mouthed unintelligible words to each other from across the courtroom.

Cape Breton Regional Police arrested Garnier on Sunday. Police said they made numerous unsuccessful attempts to contact him on Feb. 17 and 18 at the two locations he was allowed to reside — one in Bedford and the other in Millville, outside of Sydney.

Garnier is facing a charge of second-degree murder and

+ CAMPBELL

Catherine Campbell had served as a police constable for six years with Truro police before she was found dead in September 2015. She also served as a volunteer firefighter for 10 years in her hometown of Stellarton.

interfering with a dead body in the death of Truro police officer Catherine Campbell.

In December, he was granted bail in Nova Scotia Supreme Court and put under 24-hour house arrest with several conditions.

When someone is alleged of breaching their bail conditions, it's the Crown's concern that the plan is not operating as it should, Crown Prosecutor Christine Driscoll told reporters outside the courtroom.

If the Crown successfully argues their position, Garnier's bail under the homicide charge would be revoked and his defence would be required to show cause as to whether he should be released.

"My son abided by his conditions entirely and we have ample evidence of that and we're confident in our lawyers to produce that evidence," Vince Garnier said in an interview on Tuesday with Metro.

The father didn't speak to reporters on Wednesday.

Halifax DIGEST

CRIME

Three suspects sought by police in wallet theft

Police are looking for two men and a woman who they say robbed a 79-year-old woman.

Halifax Regional Police say the victim was shopping at a pharmacy on the Bedford Highway on Jan. 27 around noon when she had her wallet stolen from her purse. She noticed it was missing after leaving the pharmacy and called police.

Police reviewed

surveillance footage and saw three suspects working together and watching her enter her credit card PIN. As the woman left the store, police say one suspect blocked the exit so that she had to brush by him.

The three suspects are described as two men — one about 25 years old with a slim build and the other about 30 years old with a medium build — and a woman about 35 years old with a slim build and a "flat nose." METRO

ASSAULT

Argument between two men leads to stabbing

An argument between two men on a Halifax street turned into a violent altercation involving a knife.

Halifax Regional Police say around 4:45 p.m. Tuesday, officers were called to the area of Gottingen and Falkland streets after a 38-year-old suffered stab wounds to his hand.

According to the regional police force, the victim was

in a dispute with another man near Cogswell and Gottingen, when the suspect swung a box cutter at the victim several times, slashing him in the hand with the blade.

The victim informed police of the suspect's identity, and he was arrested by officers about five minutes later in the area of Divas Lane and Adams Avenue.

The accused, a 31-year-old, is facing both weapons and assault charges stemming from the incident. METRO



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Members of the Maritime Bhangra Group perform during a Cultural Plan Announcement at Pier 21 on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER / METRO

Cultural program touted by McNeil

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

Few details, but premier vows it will 'come alive'

Cody McEachern
For Metro | Halifax

Premier Stephen McNeil says a new cultural plan for Nova Scotia will "come alive" despite vagueness on cost and many details.

At a Pier 21 event on Wednesday, the Liberal government said the plan, dubbed Nova Scotia's Culture Action Plan, will contribute to the province's diverse and creative communities, and will guide the government in its decision-making.

The plan is broken into six steps, or "themes," which outline the different actions to be taken for each category, such as the promotion of creativity and innovation.

The plan has a heavy focus

on the Mi'kmaq culture, with nods to other diversities such as African Nova Scotians and Acadians, shifting away from the province's Celtic stereotypes.

"The Mi'kmaq have a very rich and distinct culture; we hold the founding culture of what is now Nova Scotia," said Chief Wilbert Marshall, lead chief of Culture, Heritage and Archeology for the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs.

"Before, we would never be consulted or asked, but this is our words this time. We had a group of our own people from different communities be involved in this. We had our own voice on what we wanted in here."

At the news conference, guest speakers talked about the importance and value of culture and creativity in Nova Scotia, and introduced cultural performances from the Maritime Bhangra Group and the Samqwan Boyz.

McNeil spoke at the news conference about new money tabbed for the plan, as well as

funding that will go to Screen Nova Scotia to help support local talent, but details such as budgets and costs were vague.

"I assure you, this plan will come alive," Premier Stephen McNeil said.

"This plan is not for us to be able to say we have checked the box on the commitment we have made to Nova Scotians. We are committed to making sure our culture comes alive."

+ SIX THEMES

Nova Scotia's Culture Action Plan will look to:

- promote Mi'kmaq culture
- promote creativity and innovation
- strengthen education
- promote partnerships and understanding
- promote excellence in cultural stewardship
- drive awareness and economic growth of the culture sector

Film industry could get boost

New funding stemming from the cultural action plan could help young Nova Scotians in the film industry get their ideas to the big screen.

Screen Nova Scotia, which represents more than 1,600 Nova Scotians in the film industry, will be receiving funding to help develop new talent as part of the province's Culture Action Plan.

The plan, announced Wednesday, will help support

diversity, culture and creativity in Nova Scotia, and has outlined the creation of new funds to promote and support local talent.

This new funding is a big step toward getting back in the game, said Mike Volpe, chairman of the Screen Nova Scotia Board of Directors.

"For film writers, this is a great way to get the government back into the development process of the film

industry. In order to find the next Trailer Park Boys, or This Hour Has 22 Minutes, it is important for these young writers to be able to get their ideas out there."

The new funding and involvement from the government will be instrumental in helping local film talent, as the support has been lacking since the film tax credit program was cut in 2015, Volpe said.

CODY MCEACHERN/FOR METRO

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Nova Scotia's wait-times lagging

HEALTH

Minister admits to problems but says progress is being made

Health Minister Leo Glavine acknowledges Nova Scotia still has the country's worst wait times for knee and hip surgeries, but says such procedures are quickly being stepped up.

Nova Scotia's auditor general said in a report released Wednesday that the Nova Scotia Health Authority has fallen short on two-year-old recommendations on wait-time reporting for knee and hip surgeries.

About 90 per cent of Nova Scotia patients receive hip replacements within 750 days,

and knee replacements within 800 days, the auditor's report notes. Nationally, the benchmark is within 182 days.

Glavine said more hip and knee surgeries are being performed each year. The Health Department said the authority is on track to perform 879 long-standing hip and knee surgeries this fiscal year, 265 more than last fiscal year.

"We're getting the long-waiters and acute into surgery much quicker than what we've been doing in the past," Glavine said.

The minister acknowledged, however, that it will be "some time" before the province will be able to move up from its last-place ranking.

In auditor Michael Pickup's report Wednesday — a follow-up tracking the government's response to recommendations in reports from 2013 and 2014 — he said the authority has only completed two of his seven 2014 recommendations on operating room usage and surgical wait-time reporting.

Glavine said moving to one provincial health authority about two years ago complicated the process of implementing



Auditor General Michael Pickup says Nova Scotia's largest health authority hasn't met two-year-old recommendations on wait-time reporting for knee and hip surgeries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

the recommendations.

"As they start year three, this will be a requirement from myself as minister and our government that (the wait-time reporting recommenda-

tions) are put in place," said Glavine after a cabinet meeting Wednesday.

Glavine said he will meet authority officials soon to discuss implementing the outstanding

recommendations.

Pickup said the health authority has yet to give citizens a clear target of how long they must await for the operations, or a monitoring system to indi-

cate how hospitals are performing.

Pickup's report said auditors had expected to see the health authority produce a timeline for following up on the recommendations.

"Our 2014 audit of surgical wait-list and operating room utilization found that Nova Scotia was not meeting national benchmarks ... which shows the importance of managing wait-lists and operating room usage," says the report.

In addition to being in last place in the Canadian Institute of Health Information rankings for knee and hip surgeries, the province is in seventh place for cataract surgery.

The auditor general also says in the report that he's concerned with slow progress by the Department of Transportation in carrying out 35 recommendations made in 2013 to improve measures that prevent inventory loss or theft.

"The recommendations are not complex and are within the department's control. The department's poor performance in dealing with these issues is disappointing," says the report.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ HOW LONG

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MEMORIAL

Man behind Mother Canada monument not giving up

There's no disguising Tony Trigiani's passion when it comes to preserving the memory of Canada's war dead.

A year after Parks Canada nixed his dream of building the Never Forgotten National Memorial on the rocky coastline of Green Cove in Cape Breton Highlands National Park, the Toronto businessman still bristles at the decision to halt the project.

"We've tried to keep the light shining on the project — my vision, what I believe in, has never changed," said Trigiani, who established a foundation to facilitate the initiative in 2012.

"It's a whole heartbeat, a throbbing and living heartbeat,

not a museum, a heartbeat that pulses for the history, honour and respect for what this country is and those who helped it get here."

Trigiani, whose parents arrived in Canada shortly after the Second World War,

said he is disappointed with the factors that derailed plans to construct the memorial, which was to include the 24-metre Mother Canada statue. Parks Canada officially pulled its support of the project on Feb. 5, 2016,

just months after Justin Trudeau's Liberals replaced Stephen Harper's Conservative government in Ottawa.

Afterwards, proponents of the memorial accused the then recently elected government of using the project as a political pawn.

Opponents of the project maintain they have never been against the erection of a national monument dedicated to the Canadians and Newfoundlanders buried in foreign countries, lost at sea or otherwise lost and presumed dead.

“We’ve tried to keep the light shining on the project.”

Tony Trigiani

TC MEDIA

LABOUR DISPUTE

Herald workers ask province to step in

The union representing 55 striking Chronicle Herald newsroom workers is again asking the provincial government to step in.

The Halifax Typographical Union said in a news release on Wednesday that it has asked provincial Labour Minister Kelly Regan to appoint an

Industrial Inquiry Commission "to penetrate the root causes of the prolonged dispute," help the union members get back to work, and return the newspaper "to the place of prominence that it had earned in the province over these many years" — all while maintain the paper as a "profitable entity."

The union was denied the same request in September 2016, and withdrew an unfair labour practice complaint last month after the company agreed to talks. Those talks, however, quickly broke off, and the union says it has no more concessions to offer.

METRO

Liberals defend new border deal

TRAVEL

Opposition says bill fails to take Trump into account

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau defended his government's proposed legislation to expand border preclearance at Canadian airports and other crossings Wednesday as the opposition New Democrats pushed to stop the bill in its tracks.

The NDP argued the bill doesn't take into account what it called "the climate of uncertainty at the border" created by the Trump administration's immigration policies.

But Trudeau suggested it's better to be cleared for entry into the United States while in Canada, because travellers are protected under the Canadian

charter of rights, as opposed to American laws.

Bill C-23, the Preclearance Act, came up for second reading in the House of Commons on Tuesday.

Introduced by Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale last June, it would replace and expand provisions of the Air Transport Preclearance Agreement signed between Canada and the United States in 2001.

The two countries signed a new agreement in 2015 to expand border clearance. Proponents say measures included in the bill will speed the flow of people and goods across the border.

Under preclearance, travellers don't have to pass through customs in the U.S. because they've already done so before departing Canada.

Critics have concerns about the legislation, arguing that it would lead to the erosion of rights of people travelling both

to the United States and Canada.

The bill "does not address Canadians' concerns about being interrogated, detained and turned back at the border based on race, religion, travel history or birthplace as a result of policies that may contravene the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms," NDP public-safety critic Matthew Dube said in putting forward a motion that could effectively kill the bill.

"What we're seeing right now is a reality where people are being discriminated against at the border," Dube told reporters.

Dube cited the example of a Vancouver man who said he was turned away from a border crossing after a U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officer scoured his cellphone for recent messages.

The officer suspected the man was a sex worker based on one email, the man reportedly told Daily Xtra. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Rod MacDonald shows off items he has been posting online to trade for coffees, at his home in Ottawa. JUSTIN TANG/FOR METRO

OTTAWA

Brewing a new barter system

Alex Parsons
For Metro | Ottawa

Cost of two medium Tim Horton's coffees: \$3.58. Value of potential return, in cool old stuff and the company of an nice elderly couple: Priceless.

Rod and Marguerite MacDonald are retired federal government workers who have been trading old, kitschy wares for cups of Joe, conversation and, occasionally, food.

"It's almost a cashless society now," Rod MacDonald said. "Older people have money in

their pocket, younger people don't. I think the barter economy has come on."

He said the whole thing started when they began renovating their house in early February and were pulling things out of storage. Marguerite put an ad on the "free stuff" section of Kijiji: "Could you bring my hubby and I a coffee?"

"That day we had four people coming over, bringing us coffee, and they got great value for a coffee," MacDonald said.

"After three or four coffees, my stomach was a little upset — you know, rumbling away

— so I said, 'Honey, let's change it to a Big Mac,' and before you know it, I had a Big Mac delivered at 4:30."

Among the items that have been offered up so far are historical pictures, including one of a shelled French village from World War I, an aerial view of Parliament Hill from the 1950s and a painting of the Rideau Canal done by one of MacDonald's brothers.

The couple also advertised "a bunch of 50 year old stamps" and a variety of other collectibles. "Remnants from garage sales," Rod calls them.

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NOVA SCOTIA

Actually, it's not so lonely out in space

ASTRONOMY

Discovered: seven worlds, and some could support life

For the first time, astronomers have discovered seven Earth-size planets orbiting a single nearby star — and these new worlds could hold life.

This cluster of planets is less than 40 light-years from Earth, or 235 trillion miles away, in the constellation Aquarius, according to NASA and the Belgian-led research team who announced the discovery Wednesday.

The planets circle tightly around a dim dwarf star called Trappist-1, barely the size of Jupiter. Three are in the so-called habitable zone, the area around a star where water and, possibly life, might exist. The others are right on the doorstep.

Scientists said they need to study the atmospheres before determining whether these rocky, terrestrial planets could support some sort of life. But it already shows just how many Earth-size planets could be out there — especially in a star's sweet spot, ripe for extraterrestrial life. The more planets like this, the greater the potential of finding one that's truly habitable. Until now, only two or three Earth-size planets had



An artist's conception of what the surface of the exoplanet TRAPPIST-1f may look like, based on data about its diameter, mass and distances from the host star. NASA/JPL-CALTECH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

been spotted around a star.

"We've made a crucial step toward finding if there is life out there," said the University of Cambridge's Amaury Triaud, one of the researchers.

The potential for more Earth-size planets in our Milky Way galaxy is mind-boggling. The history of planet-searching shows "when there's one, there's more," said Massachusetts Institute of Technology astrophysicist Sara Seager.

"With this amazing system, we know that there must be many more potentially life-bearing worlds out there just

+ COSMIC

■ Astronomers have confirmed close to **3,600** planets outside our solar system since the 1990s.
■ Barely **four dozen** are in the potential habitable zone of their stars, and of those, just **18** are approximately the size of Earth.

waiting to be found," she said.

NASA's Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for the science mission, said the

discovery "gives us a hint that finding a second Earth is not just a matter of if, but when," and addresses the age-old question of "Are we alone out there?"

"We're making a step forward with this, a leap forward in fact, toward answering that question," Zurbuchen said at a news conference.

Last spring, the University of Liege's Michael Gillon and his team reported finding three planets around Trappist-1. Now the count is up to seven, and Gillon said there could be more. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. ADMINISTRATION

Trump to lift trans bathroom guidance

The Trump administration will revoke federal guidelines that tell public schools to let transgender students use bathrooms and locker rooms matching their chosen gender identity, the White House said Wednesday.

The decision would be a reversal of an Obama-era directive advising public schools to grant bathroom access to students in line with their expressed gender identity and not necessarily the gender on their birth certificate.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer said Wednesday that the previous administration's guidelines were confusing and hard to implement and that new directives would be issued later in the day. A government official with direct knowledge of the plans told The Associated Press that the Obama-era guidance would be rescinded, though anti-bullying safeguards would not be affected. The official was not authorized to speak publicly

about the plans and did so on condition of anonymity.

Although the Obama guidance carried no force of law, transgender rights advocates say it was necessary to protect students from discrimination. Opponents argued it was overreach and said it violated the safety and privacy of all other students.

Spicer said that the Departments of Justice and Education were working together on the new document.

"The president has made it clear throughout the campaign that he is a firm believer in states' rights," he said.

The Obama administration's guidance was based on its determination that Title IX, the federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in education and activities, also applies to gender identity.

While not legally binding, the guidance sent a warning that schools could lose funding if they did not comply.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

POLITICAL DIGEST

Republicans avoiding stormy town halls

Republicans who benefited from rowdy town halls six years ago and harnessed a wave of discontent with Democrats to win seats in Congress are learning a hard lesson this week as they return home: The left is happy to return the favour.

Across the U.S., Democrats and their allies are spending this

short congressional recess protesting elected Republican politicians who are avoiding the events that often turn into shouting matches. AP

Revised immigration order delayed until next week

The White House is pushing back the release of Donald Trump's revamped refugee and immigration executive order until next week. Trump had said his administration would unveil the order this week, but an official says that has been delayed. AP



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Daesh identified the bomber as Abu Zakariya al-Britani. British officials confirmed the man was a Briton also known as Ronald Fiddler and Jamal al-Harith. NINAWA STATE VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bomber let out of Gitmo

IRAQ

Concerns over how Britain lost track after man's release

A suicide bomber who attacked a military base in Iraq this week was a former Guantanamo Bay detainee freed in 2004 after Britain lobbied for his release, raising questions about the ability of security services to track the whereabouts of potential terrorists.

Daesh identified the bomber as Abu Zakariya al-Britani, and two British security officials also confirmed the man was a 50-year-old Briton formerly known as Ronald Fiddler and as Jamal al-Harith.

He was one of 16 men paid a total of 10 million pounds (now worth \$12.4 million) in compensation in 2010, when the British government settled a lawsuit alleging its intelligence agencies were complicit in the torture of

prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, according to the officials.

Al-Harith was a web designer and convert to Islam when he set off on a visit to a religious retreat in Pakistan in October 2001.

He was detained at gunpoint near the border with Afghanistan and turned over to the Taliban. A couple of months later he was liberated by the Northern Alliance but was turned over to the Americans and sent to Guantanamo Bay. Like many others, he claims he was tortured there.

Al-Harith and 15 others had sued the British government, alleging it knew about or was complicit in their treatment.

Arthur Snell, a former head of the Prevent program, which is part of the Britain's counter terrorism strategy, said the authorities clearly had lost track of him.

"It's obvious that collectively, the authorities — and obviously I have some personal responsibility there — we failed to be aware of what Fiddler was up to," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MALAYSIA

North Korea mocks poison plot claims



Kim Jong Nam ASSOCIATED PRESS

The two women suspected of fatally poisoning a scion of North Korea's ruling family were trained to coat their hands with toxic chemicals and then wipe them on his face, police in Malaysia said Wednesday, announcing they were seeking a North Korean diplomat in connection with the attack.

But the North Korean Embassy ridiculed the police account of Kim Jong Nam's death at a Malaysian airport, demanding the immediate release of the

two "innocent women."

If the toxins had been on their hands "then how is it possible that these female suspects could still be alive?" demanded a statement from North Korea's embassy in Kuala Lumpur. Police say the women — one of them Indonesian, the other Vietnamese — washed their hands soon after poisoning Kim, the long-estranged half brother of the North Korean ruler.

Earlier Wednesday, Inspector-General of Police Khalid Abu

Bakar told reporters that authorities are searching for two new North Korean suspects, the second secretary of North Korea's embassy in Kuala Lumpur and an employee of North Korea's state-owned airline, Air Koryo.

"We hope that the Korean Embassy will co-operate with us, allow us to interview them and interview them quickly," he said. "If not, we will compel them to come to us."

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IN BRIEF

New president warns it will take 20 years to 'fix' nation
Somalia's new leader was inaugurated Wednesday while promising to restore dignity to the troubled Horn of Africa nation but warning it will take another two decades to "fix" the country.

President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, who also holds U.S. citizenship, was elected earlier this month. He said Somalia's main obstacles are insecurity and humanitarian crises, including a drought that the UN has said affects millions of people. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



AZEEZAH KANJI ON M-103 AND FREE SPEECH



It is a double standard to demonize a motion condemning Islamophobia by crying 'free speech,' while trampling over free speech with Bill C-51.

Opponents of M103 — a non-binding motion asking the Canadian government to condemn and study Islamophobia and other forms of racism — are trying to pass themselves off as brave defenders of free speech.

At a rally organized by Rebel Media last Wednesday against M103, for instance, several Conservative leadership candidates (Kellie Leitch, Brad Trost, Chris Alexander, and Pierre Lemieux) sounded the alarm. Trost told the hundreds-strong crowd that the motion is an instrument of the "thought police in Ottawa." "This is ground zero ... for freedom of speech, not just in Canada ... but for the world today," declaimed Alexander, the former Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

M103 is a symbolic declaration with no legal force or effect, similar to the motion against anti-Semitism passed by Parliament in 2015. It does not denounce (much less prohibit) all criticism of Islam — only unfounded fear and hatred of Muslims, which is the definition of Islamophobia. "There is no rational argument that M103 ... restricts or constrains" freedom of expression, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association points out.

The contention that this constitutes a global "ground zero" in some battle against the "thought police" is wildly overblown. Six Muslims were killed in a hate attack on a Quebec mosque three weeks

ago, but the anti-M103 movement seems more concerned about a concocted threat to free speech than the demonstrated threat to Muslim lives.

This would-be crusade for free speech is also disingenuous, since many of its most prominent proponents have previously embraced measures undermining speech rights in Canada. The same

"doesn't mention ... Islamic jihadist terrorism," when "Islamic jihadist terrorism" is already the target of extensive policing and punishment — including in ways that jeopardize the freedom of expression he claims to hold so dear.

Leitch, Lemieux, Trost, and Alexander cannot credibly parade as champions of free speech when they supported

detain people preventively, before any crime has been committed.

Lawyers Clayton Ruby and Nader Hasan describe the type of scenario that could fall within these enlarged powers: "Six Muslim young adults stand in front of a mosque late at night in heated discussion in some foreign language ... They may be talking about



Motion misdirection Forget M-103, it's C-51 that threatens free speech, says Kanji. THE CANADIAN PRESS

politicians now treating freedom of expression like a sacred cow have been perfectly happy to sacrifice it in the very recent past.

It is hypocritical of Trost to disparage "motions to try to shut down free speech," when he (and the rest of the Conservative Party) endorsed a motion last February against the non-violent Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions campaign pressuring Israel to comply with international law. "The House ... calls upon the government to condemn any and all attempts by Canadian organizations, groups or individuals to promote the BDS movement, both here at home and abroad," it read. Where was all the hyperventilation about "thought police" then?

And it is spurious of Alexander to complain that M103 focuses on Islamophobia but

the 2015 Anti-Terrorism Act (Bill C-51), a law excoriated by legions of lawyers and civil liberties advocates for violating constitutionally protected rights of expression. For example, Bill C-51 "will lead to censorship and a massive chill on free expression," according to Tom Henheffer, the executive director of Canadian Journalists for Free Expression.

Bill C-51 creates a new criminal offence of advocating or promoting "terrorism offences in general:" an extremely broad and vague provision that potentially criminalizes a sweeping expanse of speech only distantly connected to violence. "This offence will loom over conduct in this country," warn law professors and national security experts Kent Roach and Craig Force. "The result of this offence will be speech chill."

Bill C-51 also makes it easier for police to arrest and

video games, or sports, or girls ... But the new standard for arrest and detention — reason to suspect that they may commit an act — is so low that an officer may be inclined to arrest and detain them in order to investigate further ... Yesterday, the Muslim men were freely exercising constitutional rights to freedom of expression and assembly. Today they are arrestable."

Terror attacks committed against Muslims have now killed three times as many people in Canada as terror attacks committed by Muslims. It is a transparent double standard to demonize a motion condemning Islamophobia by crying "free speech," while simultaneously trampling over free speech with legislation like Bill C-51.

Azeezah Kanji is a legal analyst and writer based in Toronto.

VICKY MOCHAMA

Lawyers little help in truth and reconciliation

In a deserved act of justice, Sixties Scoop survivors won a \$1.3-billion class action against the federal government last week in an Ontario court. It's a relief to hear Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett say the government won't appeal the ruling.

But if the feds are really committed to truth and reconciliation, they must stand down the lawyers as the settlements are doled out.

Bennett's statement points to a relationship between Indigenous plaintiffs and the federal government that is still fraught.

This Sixties Scoop case was filed in 2009.

Only in the week prior to the ruling did Ottawa announce a sudden shift: now, they were willing to negotiate the claims of Indigenous children who had been removed from their families and adopted into non-Indigenous homes.

On this abrupt shift in tactics, the minister told the House, "We are adversaries no more," and "negotiation rather than litigation is our government's preferred route to settle these differences and right historical wrongs."

What a surprise that must have been to the Sixties Scoop survivors who, as recently as December, had been in court while government lawyers argued that Canada had no "duty of care" for these Indigenous children.

Despite public claims towards working on a nation-to-nation approach, lawyers for the Liberal government were continuing to defend against

cases brought by Indigenous peoples.

Take the residential schools class action — the largest in Canadian history. The settlements, now over \$3 billion, provide for residential school survivors who experienced sexual and physical abuse. The agreement established the Independent Assessment Process, which was meant to provide a speedy out-of-court process for paying damages. Yet, lawyers for the government used the IAP to split hairs, leading to claims to be reduced or dismissed.

Despite a hard-fought agreement on residential schools, the government and its lawyers sought to shirk their responsibilities within it.

So while the Sixties Scoop ruling is a clear win for Indigenous people, it must be met with a government commitment to not penny-pinch, obfuscate or complicate.

That is a commitment that First Nations children have been waiting for. Over a year ago, the Human Rights Tribunal ruled that Ottawa was discriminating against First Nations kids by failing to provide equal welfare.

A year later, the case is back before the tribunal.

Canada has been very good at recording its systematic cruelty towards Indigenous people. And yet many have survived in spite of said cruelty.

After decades of forcing survivors to repeatedly relive traumas, it's time for the lawyers to step back and for the government to step up.

Terror attacks against Muslims have now killed three times as many people in Canada as terror attacks by Muslims.

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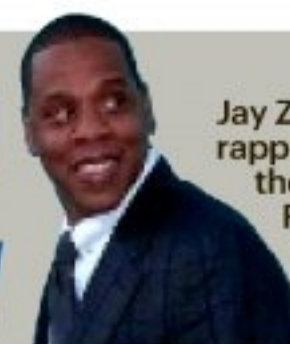
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Thursday, February 23, 2017

Cracking code of a fortress of nostalgia

INTERVIEW

Jason Rekulak's writing debut dives back into '80s childhood

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada



America's favourite letter-turner, Vanna White, nearly lost her golden-girl image when she appeared on the cover of the May 1987 issue of Playboy.

The racy photos were scandalous to many loyal Wheel of Fortune viewers, but for three hormonal teenage boys, getting hold of a copy of the coveted magazine turned into the setup for the biggest, most risky caper of their young lives.

No, that's not a premise from a long-lost John Hughes screenplay, but the opening to Jason Rekulak's debut novel, *The Impossible Fortress*, a geeky but sweet coming-of-age love story set in motion by the boys' desperate attempts to peek inside Playboy.

Billy — who is just as obsessed with programming crude video games on his Commodore 64 as he is with Vanna's nakedness — along with his pals, Clark and Alf, plan a heist that involves breaking into Zelinsky's convenience store to grab a copy of the magazine.

Billy is tasked with seducing Zelinsky's daughter, Mary, to get the store's security code, but as it turns out, she too is a whip-smart computer coder, and they become fast friends. The duo starts working together on the titular game, *The Impossible Fortress* (which is available to play on the website jasonrekulak.com), when Billy falls in love, and the lure of Vanna in lingerie begins to fade.

Rekulak doesn't consider himself a nostalgic guy, but was feeling so when he started writing *The Impossible Fortress*. After his father became ill, Rekulak returned to his hometown, on which the book's fictional location Wentbridge — referred to as the Armpit of New Jersey — was modelled. He was spending a lot of time at

the hospital with his dad, and while there, bought a notebook from the gift shop.

"I started writing down stories of all these people I was seeing under very unfortunate circumstances," he says. "Some of them were real and some were made up. Maybe it was a therapeutic exercise, but also proof you can write anywhere."

Like Billy, Rekulak was once a young self-taught programmer, but later switched his computer science major to English in second-year university.

It was writing video games that set Rekulak on the path to becoming an author, and to his current job as publisher of the Philadelphia press Quirk Books, where he's edited blockbusters like *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* and *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*.

"I wanted to build all these worlds and tell all these stories, but I was never really good at coding or actually programming stuff," Rekulak says. The graphics on the early games Rekulak built were so simple, he added screens and screens of text to build out the stories. "I'd write these long histories of these stick figures," he says. "It gave me this freedom and confidence to write on screen."

Rekulak — who is definitely a kid of the '80s — filled *The Impossible Fortress* with pop-culture gems from his own life, from Freddy Krueger to Mag-

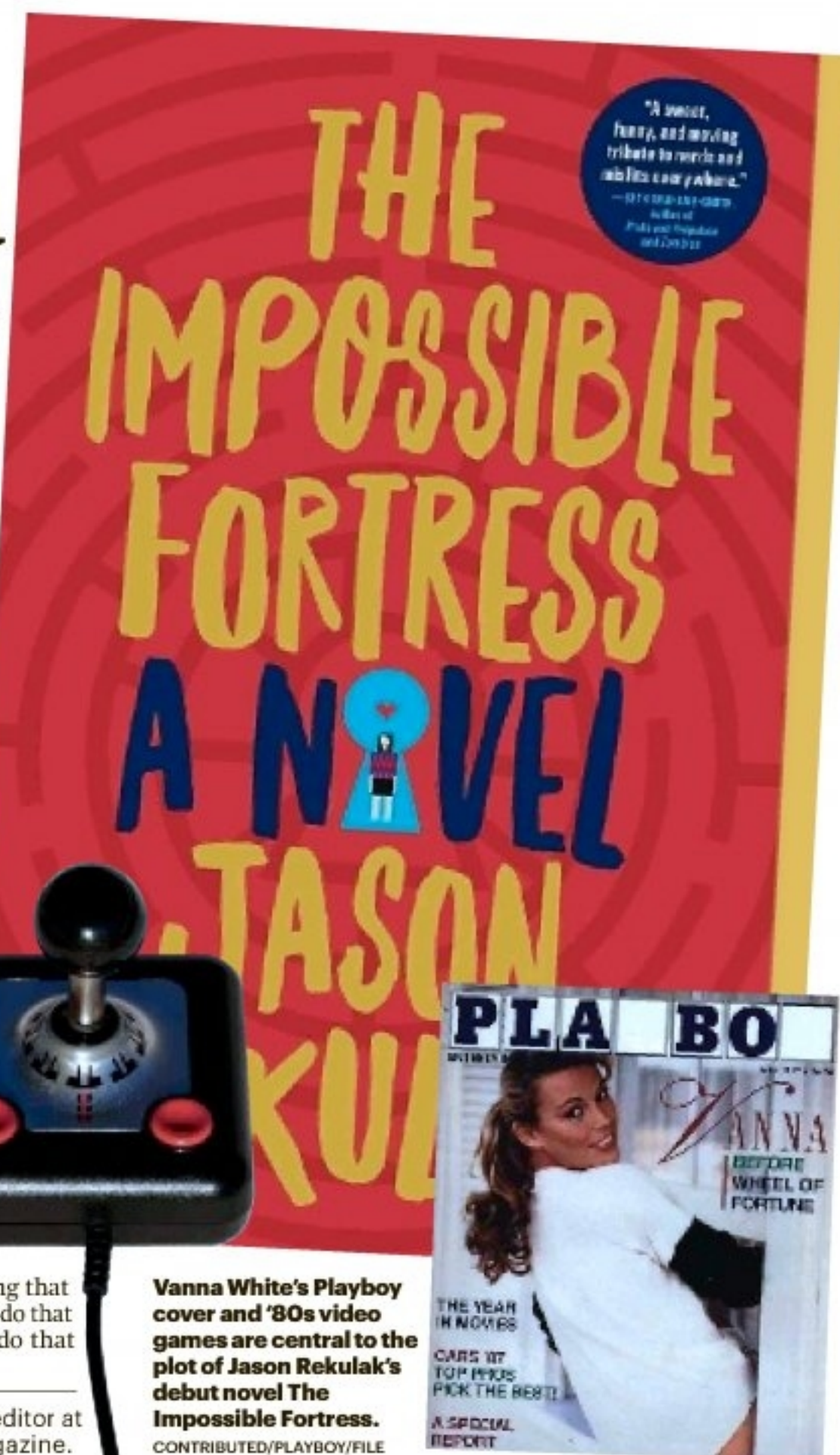
num P.I., but was never concerned about explaining the references to younger, millennial-aged readers, who have never dialled a rotary phone, or used a floppy disk.

It takes him back to his own teen years, reading Stephen King's 1982 novella, *The Body* (which became the 1986 movie *Stand By Me*). He recalls not understanding all of King's references to 1950s culture, yet it didn't hinder his enjoyment of the book.

In fact, he re-read it while working on *The Impossible Fortress*.

Rekulak says, "I was thinking that if Stephen King can do that for the '50s, I can do that for the '80s."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.



Vanna White's Playboy cover and '80s video games are central to the plot of Jason Rekulak's debut novel *The Impossible Fortress*. CONTRIBUTED/PLAYBOY/FILE



I was thinking that if Stephen King can do that for the '50s, I can do it for the '80s.

Jason Rekulak

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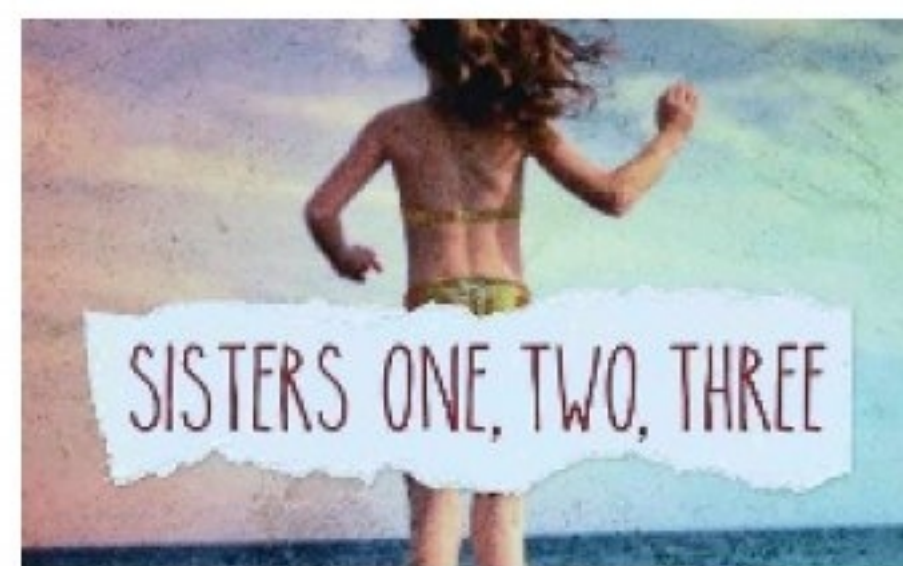


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BOOKS EXPLORING DYNAMICS OF DIVERSE FAMILIES

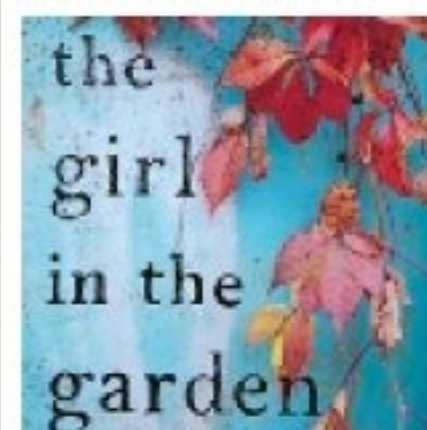
We don't need to tell you that families come in many shapes and forms. From Victorian England to an experiment in utopian parenting and plenty in between, here are five new books that remind us all that there really is no such thing as a traditional family unit.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



1 Tangled ties of sisterhood

A tragic accident occurred when the Tangle family of New Jersey — father Solly, mother Glory and four kids ranging from 13 to 6 — went to Martha's Vineyard on vacation in the 1970s, a life-altering event that marked each of the three Tangle daughters in different ways as adults. **Sisters One, Two, Three** is a fine multi-generational family story about the ties between sisters and the need to confront past trauma. Author Nancy Star is a former movie executive and this is her fifth novel.



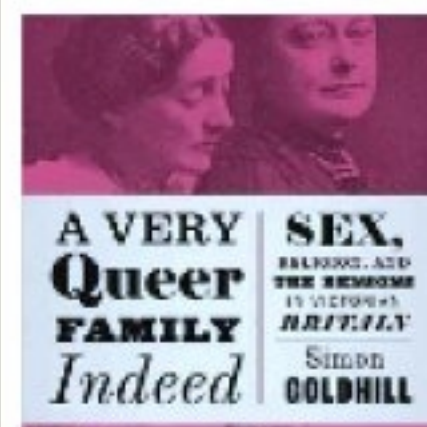
2 Surrogate guardians

In Melanie Wallace's **The Girl in the Garden**, an abandoned young mother and her baby arrive on the New England coast and are soon adopted by locals who have known one another for decades. This diverse group of surrogate guardians includes, a recluse, a prodigal daughter, a widow, a veteran and a lawyer — each with his or her own passions and secrets. Wallace has written *The Housekeeper and Blue Horse Dreaming*.



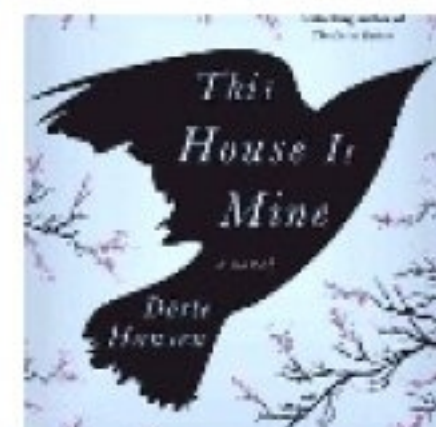
3 Collective parenting

The Infinite Family Project, headed by the well-meaning though awkward psychologist Preston Grind, is a utopian experiment in collective parenting, perhaps even a model for a well-adjusted life. Ten families have been selected, each with one child, including the central character in Kevin Wilson's **Perfect Little World**, Izzy Poole, the only single mother in the group. Wilson is attracted to stories involving unconventional child-rearing.



4 A very Victorian clan

Cambridge professor Simon Goldhill's **A Very Queer Family Indeed** introduces us to this odd family with a kiss, in 1853, between Edward White Benson, 23, and his future wife, Minnie Sidgwick, then 12. They married when she was 18 and in short order had six children. Edward became Archbishop of Canterbury; Minnie (Mary) left Edward and the kids when she found she much preferred women.



5 Forging a new belonging

This House Is Mine is the story of two women who find each other and forge a family. Vera arrived at the old farmhouse in East Prussia as a five-year-old refugee 60 years ago — and, to this day, remains a stranger. As the story opens, her niece, Anne, and her young son arrive at the house after fleeing the Hamburg neighbourhood where Anne, too, has never felt she belonged. Things unfold from their alternating perspectives.



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Global influence: How to style travel finds

INTERIORS

Bring rugs and souvenirs into your home to update décor

As part of the globalism trend, tribal style — batik fabrics, Dutch Wax and itak prints — has spread from fashion to home décor. There's a caravan of interesting furniture and accessories that work in any space, from the sleek and contemporary to the simple and functional.

"It's a look that's meant to reflect the places you've been and decorative objects you brought home," says New York designer Elaine Griffin.

Rugs are a big part of the style, and not just on the floor. Griffin says "the flat-weave kilim and dhurrie rugs that are now back with a vengeance move stylishly onto upholstered chairs, sofas and ottomans."

Kilim rugs are admired for their bold, geometric flat-weave patterns. They've been hand-woven for generations in North Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

A lot of their appeal lies in

the bold motifs and pigment dyes, with elements like wolf's mouths, stars and fertility symbols interpreted in geometric patterns. Back in Victorian England, smoking rooms and nooks were rife with kilim-covered furniture.

British manufacturer George Smith is known for kilim upholstery marked by careful pattern alignment and crisply tucked edges. They make a range of armchairs and benches covered in detailed modern and vintage Turkish flat-weaves.

Karma Living's collection of smartly styled midcentury modern chairs and footstools are upholstered in bold stripes and tribal patterns.

Both new and antique versions are interesting, working well not only as upholstery, but as wall hangings or table coverings. The hand-crafted nature of kilims, Oriental and rag rugs plays well with woods and metals. White walls make them pop, while more satur-

ated hues are complementary frames.

Joss & Main's style director, Donna Garlough, says pouf ottomans are one of her favourite twists on the trend.

"They're a great way to add a pop of pattern to a room, and you can use them for extra seating if you're having a party," she says.

An added bonus of these materials is that they're pretty tightly woven and durable, and the bright patterns often camouflage stains.

"You don't have to worry as much about a toddler spilling juice on a kilim-covered cocktail ottoman as you would if the upholstery were linen or leather," Garlough says.

Atlanta-based artist and textile designer Beth Lacefield has done a collection of kilim poufs for Surya in both muted tones and vibrant hues like raspberry, burnt orange and olive green.

Boston designer Jill Rosenwald's pouf collection for the retailer is also inspired by In-

dian flat-weave rugs, with sophisticated chocolate browns, greys and other muted hues.

Crafters will find lots of ideas online for turning inexpensive rag rugs from big box stores into floor pillows, headboard covers and benches.

Courtney Schutz, a designer in Point Reyes, California, turned a staid, traditional, upholstered bench into a fun piece for a girls' room by gilding the legs and covering the seat with a gumball-colored rag rug.

On the website Style Me Pretty, Toronto designer Jacquelyn Clark offers a simple tutorial on sewing throw-rug pieces into a square, filling it with foam beads, and then closing it up with thread or a zipper to make a big pillow.

While the kilims have an earthy rusticity, distressed wool, linen or silk rugs can make a more elegant piece.

Pottery Barn has a cotton velvet line inspired by Persian carpeting. And West Elm's Ornament velvet pouf comes in sophisticated, soothing hues of ivory or platinum. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ INTERIOR OPTIONS

All it takes is an accent piece

Foot stool

The Mindy ottoman, by Joss & Main, which is upholstered in a rugged yet stylish material inspired by kilim rugs. Made in India and hand woven, the wool cover features a chevron motif and is secured to the wooden frame using brass nails.



Throw pillow

A pillow by AllModern features rich, earthy hues and bold geometrics which make for this striking — and sturdy — piece. Kilim rug weaves are trending off the floor, in pillows and upholstery, as part of the global and tribal décor trends.



Pouf

The Hailey pouf by Joss & Main is covered in a bold geometric kilim material. "An added bonus of these rug materials is that they're tightly woven and durable, and the bright patterns camouflage stains," says Joss & Main style director Donna Garlough. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



It's a look that's meant to reflect the places you've been and decorative objects you brought home

Elaine Griffin, designer



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SEVILLA OUTFOXES LEICESTER Leicester City's Kasper Schmeichel stops an early penalty from Sevilla's Joaquin Correa during Wednesday's Round of 16 Champions League match in southern Spain. Despite the early penalty miss, Sevilla went on to win 2-1 over the English champions on goals from Pablo Sarabia and Correa. Jamie Vardy scored his first goal of 2017 to give the visitors hope for the return leg back in Leicester on March 14. In Wednesday's other Champions League match, Juventus beat host Porto 2-0. MICHAEL REGAN/GETTY IMAGES

Stumbles, tumbles come with territory

CURLING

Top women's sweepers share stories of spills on the ice

From funny to frightening, falling is a fact of life in curling.

Elite curlers are not immune. An informal survey of women at the Canadian championship yields a few stories about feet leaving the ice and elbows, arms and buttocks taking the brunt of a spill.

"I probably have a really good fall at least once a season," Alberta lead Alison Thiessen said.

A wipeout can happen in a practice, a league game or in front of rolling cameras at national championships recording the pratfall for posterity.

The women move so comfortably on the ice at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in St. Catharines, Ont., it's easy to

HOMAN BOOKS PLAYOFF SPOT

Ontario's Rachel Homan clinched a playoff spot at the Canadian women's curling championship with her ninth victory.

Homan downed Northern Ontario's Krista McCarville 7-6 in an extra end to stay unbeaten at 9-0 Wednesday.

Ontario takes on Manitoba's Michelle Englot (8-1) Thursday evening.



Ontario skip Rachel Homan
SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

forget they have a slider on one shoe that can turn into a banana peel.

Falls aren't surprising when you consider curlers lunge out of the hack balancing on one foot far ahead of the other.

They lean their body weight into their broom heads to maximize sweeping pressure while stepping over a minefield of guards in front of the rings.

Injury is a possibility but

uncommon at their level of curling, what concerns the women more is if they go down is touching the rock in motion with their brooms or bodies. The stone is then "burned" and immediately removed from play.

A spill in practice might produce nothing worse than giggles, but in an important game, it's mortifying.

"My first Scotties, we were playing against Shannon Kleibrink and it was my first ever game on TSN," Ontario lead Lisa Weagle recalled.

"First, I burned one of (skip) Rachel's rocks sweeping and the

next end I fell while sweeping. I didn't burn that rock, but super-embarrassing. We managed to win the game somehow. I've never been happier to get off the ice."

Getting out of the way of a sliding rock is their priority as opposed to protecting themselves when they land on the ice.

Northern Ontario's front end of Ashley Sippala and Sarah Potts have a pact. If one goes down, the other sweeper has permission to push her teammate out of the way as hard as it takes.

"One time Ashley fell in front of a rock," Potts said. "It was funny because it was a scrub game and it didn't matter. I took my broom and I shoved her out of the way. If I fall in front of the rock, she should shove."

Brad Gushue's face plant at The Masters in October 2015 that resulted in stitches and a swollen eye was a wake-up call that crashes in curling can be more than just embarrassing.

Curling Canada introduced return-to-play concussion protocol mandatory for all their events a year ago. The organization also recommends protective headgear. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Burns has rare feat within his reach

Brent Burns has a chance to move into the rarefied air of legendary defenceman Bobby Orr.

The 31-year-old from Barrie, Ont., could become only the second defenceman to ever win the Art Ross trophy as the NHL's leading scorer, joining Orr who did it twice for the Boston Bruins — the last time in 1975.

With 64 points, Burns ranks third in the scoring race entering Wednesday's action, only three points back of Connor McDavid for the overall lead.

Burns is on pace for 37 goals and 88 points, totals that are practically unheard of for an NHL defenceman. Only two have ever hit both marks in the



Brent Burns
GETTY IMAGES

same season and they're both Hall of Famers from earlier eras — Orr and Paul Coffey did it three times each.

"What Burns's doing is great," said Ottawa captain Erik Karlsson, 12 points back of Burns with 52 this year. "It's good for the league. It's good for everybody. It shows that it's possible."

With 27 goals, Burns has more than the entire defence corps of 19 teams.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Pitches pulled from intentional walks

There won't be any wild pitches on intentional walks this season.

The players' association has agreed to Major League Baseball's proposal to have intentional walks without pitches this year.

"It doesn't seem like that big of a deal. I know they're trying to cut out some of the fat. I'm OK with that,"

Cleveland manager Terry Francona said.

While the union has resisted

many of MLB's proposed innovations, such as raising the bottom of the strike zone, installing pitch clocks and limiting trips to the mound, players are willing to accept the intentional walk change.

"There are details, as part of that discussion, that are still being worked through, however," union head

Tony Clark wrote Wednesday in an email to The Associated Press.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

932

There were 932 intentional walks last year — 600 in the National League.

IN BRIEF

Davis, White won't defend Olympic ice dance gold

Meryl Davis and Charlie White won't be defending their Olympic ice dance gold medal in South Korea.

The Sochi champions haven't competed for three seasons, so their announcement Wednesday hardly was a surprise.

Maia and Alex Shibutani, the two-time American champions and current world runners-up, will be their successors, contending against the likes of Canada's Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Melo expects to stay put in New York with Knicks

Carmelo Anthony hasn't heard anything from the New York Knicks that makes him believe he's being traded.

A day before the NBA's trade deadline, Anthony said Wednesday that he expects to remain with the Knicks, since they've given him no indication they're looking to deal their All-Star forward.

The 32-year-old forward, who has said he wants to stay with the Knicks, has a rare no-trade clause and would have to agree to any deal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



You kind of just move your broom, let the rock go by and tuck and roll. Ontario second Joanne Courtney

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Spicy Beef Tacos



PHOTO: MAYA VISNIEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

A sweet and spicy mashup is the key to the addictive flavour of these simple beef tacos.

Ready in 40 minutes

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serves 6

Ingredients

- 1 large sweet potato, diced into bite-size pieces
- 1 Tbsp (15 ml) olive oil
- 1 1/2 tsp (7.5 ml) salt, divided
- 1/2 red onion, thinly sliced and rinsed in very warm water
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) sugar
- pinch of salt
- 1/3 cup rice vinegar
- 2 lb. (900 g) organic lean ground beef
- 2 Tbsp (30 ml) chili powder
- 2 tsp (10 ml) ground cumin
- 1 tsp (5 ml) cinnamon
- 1 tsp (5 ml) dried oregano
- 1 tsp (5 ml) pepper
- 2 tsp (10 ml) salt
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) shaved Monterey jack cheese

- Handful chopped fresh cilantro
- 8 corn tortillas
- jar of prepared salsa

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400. Toss sweet potato with olive oil and 1/2 tsp (2ml) salt. Spread on a lined baking sheet and bake 5 to 7 minutes. Toss and bake another 5 minutes, or until fork tender. Remove from oven and place in a bowl; set aside.

2. In a small bowl, dissolve sugar and salt in vinegar, add the onions; set aside.

3. In large skillet, cook beef over medium heat, breaking up with spoon, until browned, 10 minutes.

4. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, blend spices and garlic. Stir into meat; cook another 2 minutes. Remove from heat and transfer half to a serving dish. Put other half in an airtight container and refrigerate. Place beef, sweet potato, red onion, cheese, cilantro, salsa and tortillas out for taco assembly.

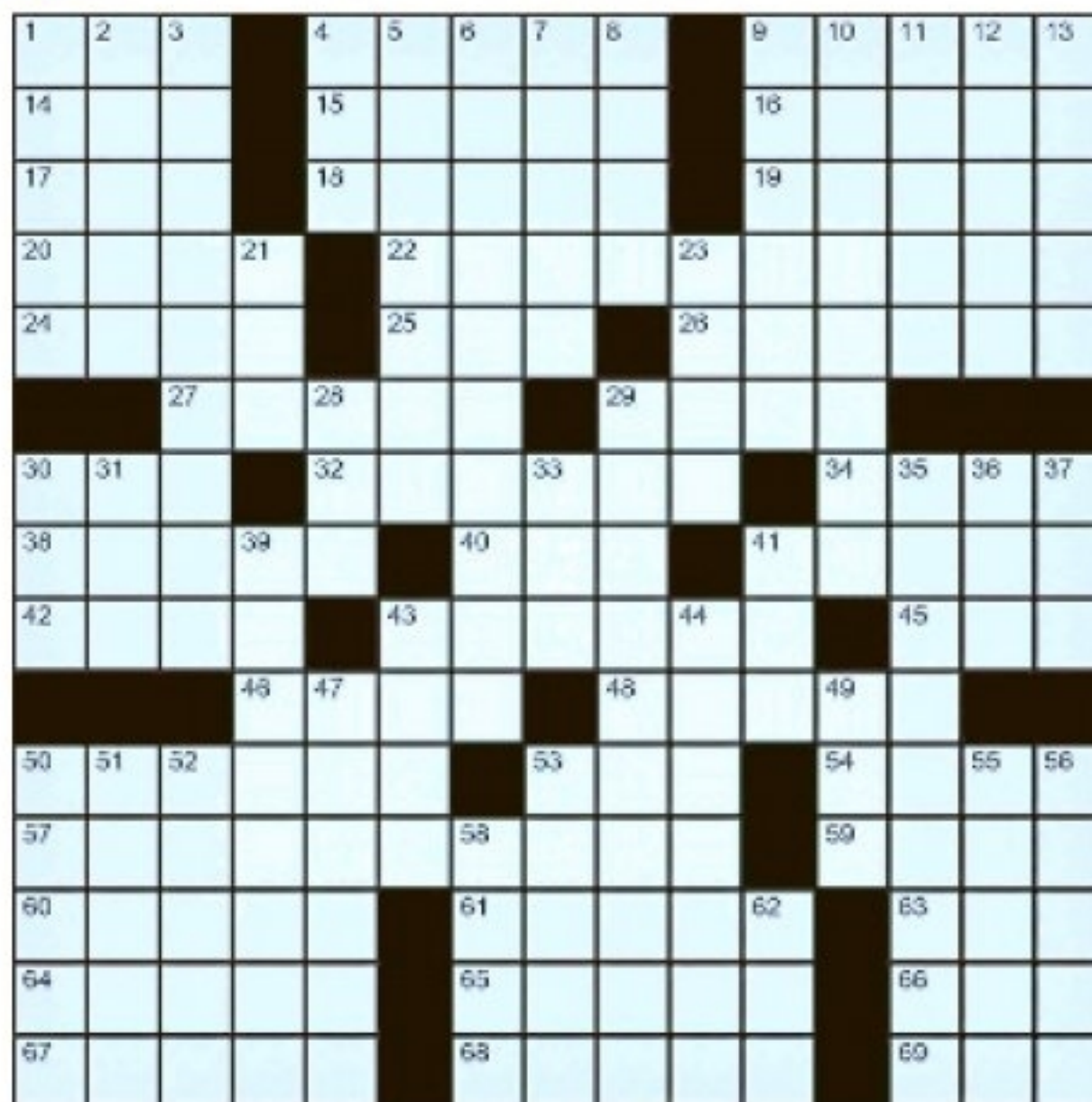
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. '___' for Zeballos
4. Looked with bewilderment
9. Not suitable
14. "___ had it!" (Enough!)
15. Range
16. More pallid
17. Fall mo.
18. Gawky
19. Show clemency
20. Steel shade
22. Saskatchewan village an hour and a half southeast of Regina
24. Since, to Robert Burns
25. Surgery sites, shortly
26. TomKat surname
27. Heidi author, Johanna ___ (b.1827 - d.1901)
29. Fill with food
30. Antagonist
32. Get by day to day: 2 wds.
34. Un-evens
38. One isn't the final version
40. 1990s "Plush" rock gr.
41. Poke around
42. Stand
43. Long river in British Columbia
45. "For what reason?"
46. Hurting
48. V-shaped fortification facing the foe
50. Retort to "Am not!": 2 wds.
53. Intl. clock standard
54. Stratford-___Avon
57. 'Amber' crop in West-



- ern Canada: 2 wds.
59. City commuter's cost
60. "The Wreck of the Mary ___" (1959)
61. "Let me take you on ___" - Depeche Mode, "World in My Eyes"
63. Needs-to-be-sewn spot

64. Bygone car
65. Walt Whitman poem, ___ the Body Electric
66. New Zealand parrot
67. Like a clarinetist's prop
68. Retro synthesizers

69. ___-inclusive

DOWN

1. Moves swiftly
2. Off-white
3. They 'run high' in Ian & Sylvia's "Four Strong Winds": 2 wds.
4. Natural ___

5. Sculpture, painting or ceramics
6. The blue above Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba: 2 wds.
7. Makes money
8. Tinted
9. Consequence
10. Elba's exile-ee

11. Strawberry ___ Clock (Psychedelic band)
12. As such: 2 wds.
13. Old shipping weight allowances
21. "That's right", quick-style
23. Broadway tune: "All ___ Jazz"
28. Hitherto
29. Nickname for Canadian hockey great Mr. Lemieux: 2 wds.
30. US Pres. monogram
31. Q. "Is the eighth letter 'H' ___ 'Z'?" A. "It's 'H'."
33. 'Capri' suffix
35. Garment from Canada Goose: 2 wds.
36. Homer Simpson's word
37. Operative
39. Showcased
41. Unhappy
43. "That '70s ___"
44. Meshwork
47. Attractive
49. "___ Wiedersehen!"
50. Sort of viper, Puff ___
51. Montreal: Mountain Street = ___ la Montagne
52. Delete
53. "I ___ tired of working..." - Peter Gabriel, "In Your Eyes"
55. Oxford University college
56. Kathmandu is its capital
58. Corey of "The Lost Boys" (1987)
62. Some movie ratings

* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Listen to someone older or more experienced today. This might be on a one-to-one basis, or this person might be in a group.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Discussions with bosses, parents and VIPs will be practical today. People will be hands-on about finding a solution. These talks will be worthwhile.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
) This is a good day to make detailed plans for future travel. Likewise, it's a good day to make educational plans. If you have to study or write anything, you will not overlook details.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Your efforts regarding inheritances, shared property, taxes, debt and other red-tape issues will produce results today. You are in a practical frame of mind and you have endurance.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Someone older might have advice for you today, or vice versa. Either way, today you are concerned with practical solutions that are doable. No pie-in-the-sky stuff.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is a productive day for you because you are prepared to roll up your sleeves and get busy. You have an eye for detail, and you're not afraid of routine.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is a good day to teach children. Likewise, it's an excellent day to practice a technique in music, sports or any art form, because you will have the patience to pay attention to detail.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Tackle major repair projects at home today. This also is a good day for family discussions. Listen to the advice of older family members.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You have a patient, careful and detail-oriented mental attitude today. You won't mind routine work, because you just want to get the job done.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If shopping today, you will be interested in buying long-lasting, practical items only. No feather boas for you! You will use your money wisely (as you generally do).

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Look around yourself today with a critical eye to see what needs to be done or corrected. You will quickly ask, "What's wrong with this picture?" You also might be a teacher to someone today.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a wonderful day for research, because you are in the right frame of mind to wade through a myriad of details. You won't overlook anything.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	4			5		9	2	
3	6						1	4
		5		1	4			7
			8		2	1		
1		2				6		3
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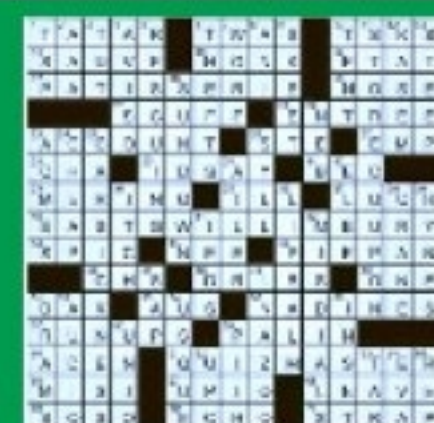
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9	3	5	2	1	6	8	4	7
8	1	4	9	7	3	2	6	5
7	6	2	4	8	5	9	3	1
4	7	9	8	2	1	3	5	6
1	5	8	3	6	7	4	9	2
6	2	3	5	9	4	7	1	8
3	8	1	6	4	2	5	7	9
2	4	6	7	5	9	1	8	3
5	9	7	1	3	8	6	2	4



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